

**Western Regional Trauma Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, January 11, 2008**

**Call to order:**

Meeting was called to order by John Bleicher.

**SQI Presentations:**

Trauma cases were presented by John Bleicher for educational purposes. There was a large amount of feedback about the usefulness and implementation of a disaster course.

**New Business Part 1:**

Georgi Mayer presented information on the Simulaids Stat PDA manikin. She has also created an instruction manual for the manikin. For more information or questions contact her at ticklingivory@msn.com. This manikin is stored at St. Pats; contact John Bleicher for use.

**Old Business:**

John Bleicher discussed the arising issue of neurosurgeons being selective in taking cases. Therefore, it is imperative that the ED is informed of patient age, as it is an important deciding factor accepting/declining patients.

John Bleicher reviewed the new Western RTAC EMS Triage Model for Traumatic Brain Injury. If a head trauma patient has a GCS of <8, take them to the highest level trauma center within 30 minutes. Implementation will be within two weeks and each hospital and EMS service will soon receive information, including maps highlighting 30 minute air and ground time.

**State Report and Finance/Education Committee Report: Kim Todd**

Several positions are open on the State Trauma Committee including Trauma Coordinator, as well as representatives from WRTAC, ACEP, MEMSA, MHA, ENA, and private ambulance services. These four year appointments are made by the governor and can be applied for on-line at <http://mt.gov/services/government.asp>. The State Trauma Committee meets quarterly in Helena to discuss issues pertaining to trauma education, legislation, injury prevention, disaster training, pediatrics, etc.

**Trauma Facility Designation**

Two more hospitals (Wheatland Memorial Hospital in Harlowton and Liberty County Hospital in Chester) received designation as Trauma Facilities. Also, Big Timber and Harlowton Hospitals had good EMS performance improvement plans and anyone who is interested in a copy can contact Kim.

If a facility is applying for trauma designation, the following should be initiated prior to the site visit by the trauma reviewers:

- there must be successful completion of ATLS course for midline providers
- resolution must be signed by medical staff and board of directors
- trauma team is identified with written activation criteria
- multidisciplinary trauma committees must be started

- must participate in trauma registry
- must start performance improvement with EMS involved

#### Funding Resources

Through Hospital Emergency Preparedness, \$15,000 is available to every hospital. For more information, contact Dale Perrin.

Available through MT Health Research and Education Foundation assistance is being provided for an ATLS Instructor Courses, TNCC proliferation, and a possible midlevel trauma conference on the eastern side of the state. They are also providing for ATLS scholarships for each RTAC (two physicians, two midlevel providers) from a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) in the region.

ATLS course dates and locations are finalized (February – Great Falls; April – Billings; June – Missoula; October – Missoula; November – Billings). Be sure to sign up as soon as possible. The ATLS instructor course will be March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

TEAM Trauma Course has been revised by John Bleicher and Jennie Nemec and is now available. If interested, contact John Bleicher. Try to complete before St. Vincent's Emergency Preparedness Grant assistance runs out in June.

Trauma Coordinator Course will be February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Helena (following the STCC on February 25<sup>th</sup>). Tracey Jones, Trauma System Manager in Wyoming, will be instructing.

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, NE is a facility that focuses on ventilator patients. This is important to keep in mind since it could be an option for patients that are difficult to discharge. There is also a similar facility in Post Falls, ID.

#### **Injury Prevention: Bobbi Perkins via e-mail**

The MT Seatbelt Coalition is continuing to meet monthly to discuss the bill draft for the 2009 Legislative Session. There is discussion on whether the bill should include a child safety seat belt law or whether there should be two separate bills. There is also a survey underway to learn how and why each legislator voted on SB 300 and use this information to focus on future efforts to gain legislative support. The next Seat Belt Coalition meeting will be February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 1PM in Helena

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month and in late February free publications from the CDC will be available. Falls are the leading cause of injury-related death for seniors and evidence suggests these four prevention tips reduce the risk for falls:

1. Exercise – to promote strength, balance, and coordination
2. Medication Review – have MD or Pharmacist review medications to determine if any medication/medication combination increase dizziness, drowsiness, etc.
3. Annual Vision Checks – poor vision increases chances of falling
4. Home Assessment – improve lighting, remove tripping hazards and install aides such as handrails

**New Business Part 2:**

It was agreed on to pay Georgi Mayer \$300(\$100 from each RTAC) for all her work with the PDA manikin.

The Head Trauma Module on Traumatic Brain Injury is still available. This is a specialized, one topic, 2-3 hour course that comes to your hospital/EMS.

This year's area of focus is Burn Care. There will be a 2.5 hour module available which will count as 2MMA credits for Nurses. Call John Bleicher if interested.

St. Pats is putting on a Midlevel Conference on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008, as well as the Spring Fever Conference on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Brochures will be sent out and registration can be done by mail or by registering online at the St. Pats website.

**Planned Area Trauma Updates**

- **Anaconda:** ED facility has transformed from a 3 bed facility to a 7 bed facility and Anaconda EMS has transitioned from a volunteer agency to a paid agency.
- **Butte:** Working towards designation in June. Also, Dr. Gould is leaving St. James, effective January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- **Deer Lodge:** Working towards designation in July
- **Dillon:** Has received a new Director of Nursing
- **Flathead:** No current updates
- **Phillipsburg:** Working towards designation in July
- **Plains:** Working towards designation
- **Polson:** Working towards designation
- **Missoula St. Pats:** ED expansion to begin in two months. This will increase ED size 50% and contain an indoor ambulance bay. Will be finished in two years
- **Superior:** Working towards designation
- **Whitefish:** Working towards designation

The next Western Region Trauma Advisory Committee will be held Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula Montana.